

May 13, 1999
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fischers Lane
Rockville, Md. 20852

3881 '99 MAY 19 P2:56

Re: Docket # 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

I implore the FDA to label irradiated foods prominently, using the radura symbol and the terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" only. This includes irradiated elements of a combination or mixed food. Irradiated whole produce should be prominently labeled on the boxes and on a nearby sign in the market. I also want to be informed as to whether prepared food I purchase from restaurants and other food service suppliers has been irradiated.

As a concerned consumer, I feel I would be misled by the absence of a label. I might reject certain foods because of a strange taste without knowing why this has occurred and avoid purchasing the product in the future.

Furthermore, I rely on whole foods such as fruit and vegetables to provide my essential nutrients and vitamins. Irradiation causes nutrient losses which I will not recognize or expect in whole foods.

In addition, there is considerable evidence that the processing by irradiation causes chemical changes in foods that are not evident and are potentially hazardous. On top of all this, there are no long-term studies on the effects of humans fed a diet heavy in irradiated foods. Labeling would allow me to decide *for myself* if I want the convenience and enhanced storage qualities of irradiated foods along with the possible health risks.

Because this technology has not been used on a wide scale before, I strongly request that the labeling requirement be retained.

Sincerely,

Bobbe Mundt
Bobbe Mundt

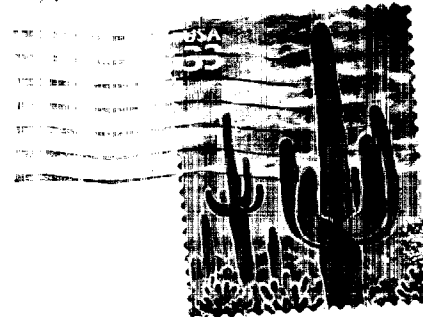
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